YADAV): (a) and (b) It has been decided to deploy Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) in place of the State Police for security duties at all operational domestic airports in the first phase. The CISF has already taken over the security duties at Jaipur, Guwahati, Vadodara and Port Blair airports.

Leasing of major airports

†459. SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL:
SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN:
SHRI ANANTA SETHI:
SHRI SATISHCHANDRA SITARAM PRADHAN:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken any decision to lease out five major airports;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it will be given to any foreign companies; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) It has been decided to restructure the airports of Airports Authority of India as and when found suitable through long-term lease. At present, the existing airports at Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Calcutta are being taken up for this exercise.

The purpose of restructuring of airports is as under:—

(i) to improve the managerial efficiency;

(ii) to bring the standards of services/facilities at par with the international standards.

(iii) to attract investments from private sector for (i) and (ii) above.

(c) and (d) As per policy on Airport infrastructure, foreign equity participation can be permitted upto 74% with automatic approval and upto 100% with special permission. Such participation could also be by foreign airport authorities.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.